

## APRIL 2006

- PAGE 2. Hiking and biking trails by Mayor Gene Winstead.
- PAGE 3. Major news.
- PAGE 4. Earth Action Heroes.
- PAGE 5. Around Bloomington.
- PAGE 6. Parks and Recreation.
- PAGE 7. Explore the arts.
- PAGE 8. Brush up on the City Code.

## YOUTH SERVICE DAYS OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

HEY KIDS! PLANT A TREE. CLEAN UP A park or street. Get involved in youth service opportunities coordinated by Human Services throughout the month of April. Youth who volunteer for City-sponsored programs will be invited to attend the Mayor's Volunteer Breakfast Buffet on **Saturday, April 29**, and will be recognized for their work. For more information, call 952-563-8737; TTY 952-563-8740 or e-mail [kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us](mailto:kstone@ci.bloomington.mn.us).

## WANTED: WETLAND VOLUNTEERS CHOOSE FROM TWO PROGRAMS



**BLOOMINGTON WETLANDS NEED YOU.** Help preserve the city's natural environment by volunteering for one of the following programs.

Become a citizen biologist. Attend the **Wetland Health Evaluation Program** and learn water-monitoring techniques through free workshops so you can gather water-quality data for Bloomington wetlands. Sign up by early May. For information, call 612-596-9129 or visit [www.mnwhep.org](http://www.mnwhep.org).

The **Adopt-A-Wetland Program** lets you select a water body you'd like to help and choose from a variety of activities, including litter pickup, invasive species removal, water monitoring and native buffer planting. Individuals, families, groups or businesses can sign up April through October. For more information, call 952-563-8751 or visit the City's Web site at [www.ci.bloomington.mn.us](http://www.ci.bloomington.mn.us), keywords: Adopt-A-Wetland.

## TREES FOR SALE

PURCHASE A TREE AND PICK UP A FREE ponderosa pine seedling for the kids on **Saturday, May 6**. See page 5.



## RUN FOR PEACE PARTNERSHIPS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY

BLOOMINGTON'S HIGH SCHOOLS, HUMAN Rights Commission and community partners will celebrate our differences with a "Run for Peace" on **Thursday, April 20**. Participating students and community members will start at Kennedy High School, run past Bloomington Civic Plaza and Creekside Community Center, and finish at Jefferson High School where both schools will observe Diversity Day with presentations and cultural awareness display booths and activities. Both Kennedy and Jefferson are designated as Official Peace Sites. For more information or to participate, call 952-563-8741; TTY 952-563-8740.



## CATCH THE WAVE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY ADDS UNIQUE VENUE

EMPLOYING MORE THAN 20,000 PEOPLE, hospitality is Bloomington's number one industry. On any given day, it wouldn't be unusual for 10,000 visitors to be staying in Bloomington's hotels, a figure larger than the population of nine out of 10 Minnesota cities. One of the region's fastest growing areas, Bloomington's Airport South District, will soon be home to new hotels, restaurants, retail and entertainment.

"These types of developments bring tourists, an important revenue source for the City," Community Development Director Larry Lee said. "Lodging and admissions tax comprised \$5.4 million of the City's General Fund Budget in 2005."

The hotel industry is making a comeback from its 2001 downturn. January's 2006 lodging taxes slightly exceeded the January 2001 totals, setting a new high point for this revenue.

One project making a big splash is the 403-room Grand Lodge and Water Park of America under construction on the old Decathlon Club site, 1700 E.



American Blvd. The \$109 million development boasts a 75,000-square-foot indoor water park, luxury suites, spa, meeting rooms and restaurants and is scheduled to open this summer. The developer, the Wirth Companies, claims its project is America's largest indoor water park, featuring the world's highest indoor water slides. The project opens this summer and is Wirth Companies' second indoor water park

resort. The Grand Rios Indoor Water Park Hotel in Brooklyn Park opened in September 2004.

Five more Bloomington hotel projects, in the planning stages, could increase Bloomington's total hotel rooms to 8,000 by 2008.



**The Grand Lodge and Water Park of America will feature luxury suites, in addition to an indoor water park that includes surfing, a wave pool, a kayak course and the world's longest indoor family raft ride.**



CITY OF BLOOMINGTON  
1800 WEST OLD SHAKOPEE ROAD  
BLOOMINGTON MN 55431-3027

## FUN WITH WATER

**500,000** gallons  
Amount of water in the park.

**21,000** square feet  
Total water surface area.

**3,000** feet  
Total overall length of slides.

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